

Week of Prayer 2008

Introduction

As we look across the European Evangelical Alliance family we are a diverse bunch, from Ireland right across to Israel, and everything in between! However, despite our differences, increasingly we find that we are all facing similar issues, socially and politically, in each of our countries.

The Bulgarian EA lead our thinking for this year's Week of Prayer and as they encourage us to consider the various challenges we face, they take us straight to the heart of our faith and the foundation of our unity – our Lord Jesus Christ. Of course, not only is he the one who draws us together he is also the hope of our nations, the answer to the struggles that many face.

As we go through this week we will be encouraged to see the place that Jesus must have in our lives and churches, and to understand his heart for people. We will be asked if he really is the centre of our lives, if we have our priorities right. We will know again the comfort of Jesus as our Shepherd, the one who comes alongside us in our moments of crisis and struggle. We will remember again that he is the Light of the world, the one who gives meaning and purpose, and who exhorts us to reflect his light.

We will also focus on what Jesus has to say to the young people of our continent, and we will pray for a new generation of followers to be raised up. And we will remember Jesus' heart for children, causing us to consider just how many children across our world find themselves the innocent victims of poverty, war and abuse.

As the week closes we will consider the call of Jesus to his followers to take the good news of the Kingdom to our world, the challenge to a mission that impacts all of life, the hope that evangelicals across Europe will truly be people of good news.

Jesus said that if he was lifted up he would draw all people to himself. This week let us pray above all that Jesus will be lifted up as we stand together across the continent; but even more, that together we will lift him up in our lives as we seek to bring the gospel of hope to our nations. Let us pray that Jesus will not just be a theological truth that we preach but a pattern for our lives, so that the words we share are matched by our actions, that those around us do not merely hear about Jesus but see him clearly in the lives of his people.

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